

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated July 25, 2006, and within the TWO MONTH period extending to September 25, 2006.

Claims 8 and 11-20 are cancelled.

5        Claims 1 and 9-10 are currently amended.

Claims 1-7 and 9-10 remain pending following entry of this Amendment.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

10        The Applicants acknowledge the Office's indication that claims 8-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

15        Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of previously pending claim 8. Accordingly, each of claims 9 and 10 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Therefore, currently pending claims 1-7 and 9-10 are in condition for allowance.

### **After Final Entry of Amendment**

20        This Amendment serves to place remaining claims 1-7 and 9-10 in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants submit that this Amendment should be allowed after-final entry.

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102**

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Herz et al. ("Herz" hereafter) (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,956). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of previously pending claim 8. Per the Office's indication, previously pending claim 8 is allowable in view of the cited art of record. Therefore, currently amended claim 1 is allowable. The Office is kindly requested to withdraw the rejection of amended claim 1.

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**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103**

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz in view of Brune et al. ("Brune" hereafter) (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,187 B1). These  
10 rejections are traversed.

Because each of claims 2 and 3 incorporates the features of amended claim 1, each of claims 2 and 3 is patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1. The Office is requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 2 and 3.

Claims 4-7, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being  
15 unpatentable over Herz in view of Brune, and in further view of Crawford et al. ("Crawford" hereafter) (U.S. Patent No. 5,948,099). These rejections are traversed.

Because each of claims 4-7 incorporates the features of amended claim 1, each of claims 4-7 is patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1. The Office is requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 4-7. Claims 17 and 20 are cancelled.

20 Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brune in view of Crawford. Claim 11 is cancelled.

Claims 12-15 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brune in view of Crawford, and further in view of Herz. Claims 12-15 and 18-19 are cancelled.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brune in view of Crawford, and further in view of Beigel. Claim 16 is cancelled.

It should be understood that the claim amendments and claim cancellations made herein are made to expedite prosecution of the subject case to Allowance. The claim amendments and claim cancellations made herein are in no way intended to reflect an acquiescence to the Office's claim rejections.

The Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6914. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ADAPP269). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,  
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